

Media, PA – On Tuesday, February 19, a group of local elected officials gathered at the Hedgerow Theatre in Media for the annual community awareness breakfast. The annual meeting is designed to allow elected officials to meet, experience the theatre's historic gristmill, and discover how they can work together to continue to serve the local community and beyond. — "I was pleased to attend the community awareness breakfast at the Hedgerow Theatre," said the Congressman. "This was a great opportunity to both meet the staff of the theatre and discuss community issues with other elected officials."

He added: "The theatre is a cultural touchstone for our region, and I thank them for contributing to the state of the arts in Delaware County. The arts are a critical part of American society, and greatly enhance our national culture. As President John F. Kennedy said, 'I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. And I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well.'"

During this meeting, Congressman Sestak also presented Penelope Reed, Producing Artistic Director of the Hedgerow Theatre, with a copy of Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Federal and State Grants & Resource Directory, a one-stop shop for learning about opportunities to secure project funding. After contacting a number of Congressional offices and consulting government websites last year, Congressman Sestak determined there was no single resource available to educate the public about grants and other federal resources for the arts or any other area. With this understanding, the Congressman chose to develop a user-friendly resource guide for his constituents.

Hedgerow Theatre is currently presenting *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, a musical production celebrating the artistry of Chester-born, African-American jazz singer and actress Ethel Waters. Hedgerow next stage *Smoke in the Mountains*, a musical tribute featuring mid 20th-century gospel numbers. For more information on the theatre and its 2008 season, visit <http://www.hedgerowtheatre.org/>

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.